

The Daily Gazetteer.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3. 1739

No. 1178.



WAS not long ago in a certain Company, wherein this Observation was made, That tho' it is generally allow'd the predicting of future Events is a Thing alike undesirable and incredible, it is notwithstanding generally desired and commonly credited. Almost every Body agreed, that this Remark was well founded, that in Fact nothing could be less the Interest of Men than to have the Prospect of Futurity within their Power, and that nothing is more improbable than that it should be at all within their Power. For, if we suppose that Things happen here by a fatal Necessity, it is absurd to fancy that Men can penetrate the Rolls of Destiny, since, if they could, they would certainly sometimes avoid it. And on the other Hand, if future Events are not governed by Fate, then they must be uncertain; and if uncertain, how shall they be foreseen? But with respect to the Curiosity which is commonly observed to reside in the Breasts of the greater Part of Mankind with a View to this Point, and that Readiness with which such Things as carry the Air of Predictions are received, the Causes of them were held to lie deep, and without exploring them, the Company changed the Discourse to another Subject. I have since seriously considered the Matter; and as I am inclined to think the Elucidation of these Points may be of Use to some of my Readers, I thought it would not be amiss to make the second Part of the Observation the Subject of a Paper, the first being so clear that it stands in no need thereof.

WHOLVER has consider'd Human Nature attentively, must be sensible, that nothing gratifies so much a Mind inctured with Pride, as a Notion of having exalted itself above the ordinary Sphere of Mortal Intelligence, and being confess'd to possess this superior Kind of Science by the rest of Mortals. Now upon this Principle the Power of predicting future Events is very desirable; because, were it possible, it would be certainly a very singular Gift; it would lift the Possessor of it far above the ordinary Level of Mankind; in short, it would make him somewhat more than Man, and consequently it would go near to gratify the utmost Stretch of the most refined Ambition.

But if we suppose another and meaner Passion, such as the Love of Power or of Money to be predominant, nothing can be clearer than that the Capacity of predicting future Events would be extremely desirable to such a Man, since it is plain that nothing could better pave the way to Power, or more effectually enable him to heap up Money, than such a Capacity. This naturally leads me to the second Part of my Task; because a Man would neither be esteemed excellent, nor have it in his Power to become Great or Rich by the Possession of this Gift; or, which is pretty much the same thing, being supposed to possess it, if the Possibility of predicting future Events was not a thing commonly credited. But as it is notoriously so without any just Grounds, I am to assign the probable Causes thereof; and in doing this, I do not pretend to go to the Bottom of the Thing, but to enumerate only a few, which will however sufficiently open the Reader's Eyes, and leave him thoroughly convinced that this is not a Point inscrutable.

IN the first Place, the confounding natural Science with preternatural Passages hath been one great Cause why this Notion hath been swallowed by some, who, in other Respects, did not deserve to be reckoned among the Vulgar. If a Man was to pretend to pass for a Conjurer by affirming, when he saw a Tree in Blossom, that so many Months after it would bear Fruit, he would be laugh'd at: Yet very learned Men recount gravely Passages not much unlike this, as Things deserving Wonder. For Instance, we read that *Sextius Severus*, when a Boy, used to delight in playing the Judge, and from his little Tribunal would give Law to his Play-fellows, which was held to be a Presage of his becoming one Day Emperor. St. *Ambrose*, when he was very little, would give his Sisters his Hand to kiss, as it was then the Custom of Prelates to do;

and this they say was an Omen of his being a Bishop. When *Mary de Medicis*, the Widow of *Henry IV. of France*, lay-in after his Death of *Hennette Maria*, her youngest Daughter, Cardinal *Borromei*, who was then the Pope's Nuncio, went to pay her a Visit, and perceiving that she was much distract'd because the Child did not prove a Son, he made her this Compliment: *I hope, Madam, before I die, to see this young Princess a great Queen. And I, reply'd the Queen, do not despair of seeing your Eminence the Head of the Church.* Both happen'd to be right in their Conjectures, or rather lucky in their Compliments; for the Princess became the Wife of our *Charles I.* and the Cardinal Pope by the Name of *Urban VIII.*

ANOTHER Cause of Credulity I take to be this: That great Events recalling to the Minds of Men many trivial Circumstances relating to the Persons of those to whom such Events fall out, some of these trivial Circumstances are converted into Presages. The Emperor *Domitian*, the Day before he died, had some Mushrooms presented to him, which he ordered to be set by, adding, *I will eat them To-morrow, if I live so long.* This *Suetonius* tells us, after his Murder, was looked upon as an ominous Expression. In like Manner we are told of two Roman Legates, who meeting at an Inn, the one entering into and the other going out of Germany, supp'd together; and when one would have taken off a Part of the Reckoning, the other said, *Why should we trouble ourselves about such Trifles, since we shall be both Popes;* which afterwards came to pass. There can be nothing clearer than that these are perfect Accidents, if any thing can be so called; and yet these are as strong as any of the Passages which are usually mention'd in Proof of the Possibility of Predicting.

IN all Nations wherein Superstition hath reign'd, there have been certain Societies of Men who were peculiar Pretenders to this Science of foretelling future Events; and the Arts made use of by these Men to support their own Credit, I take to have been another Source of Credulity. We are told by *Curius*, that when *Darius* ordered the Form of the Persian Scymitars to be changed, and that they should be thence forward made like those of the Greeks, the *Magi* predicted that the Empire should be shortly transformed from the former to the latter, which was accordingly by the Victories of *Alexander the Great* fulfilled. But a Man of Penetration will easily see that this Prediction might have been supported if that Event had not succeeded; for might not the *Persian Magi* have said, that the Empire was actually in the *Greeks*, since in this respect they gave Laws to the *Persians*? The *Augurs at Rome* having observed towards the End of the Reign of *Augustus*, that a Flash of Lightening had obliterated the Letter C in his Title *Cesar*, foretold from thence that he would die in a hundred Days; because *Ezra*, in the *Tuscan Language*, signified a God, and the Letter C represented a hundred, according to the *Roman Computation*. But they conceal'd this till after the Emperor's Death, when, as a Compliment to his Memory, it was countenanced by his Family, and, by the Solemnity of its Appearance, very reverently received by the People.

ANOTHER Cause why Men have given in to the Belief of Predictions, is their being often deceived by Rumours, and esteem'g those as Presages which were in Fact Accidents flowing from the same Cause which induced some extraordinary Event. Sir *Henry Watten*, in his Reflections on the Life of the Great Duke of *Bucks*, informs us, that his Grace taking Leave of the Bishop of *London*, besought him to put the King in Mind of his Wife and Children. Upon which that Prelate asked him if he had any secret Abode in his Mind; to which the Duke answer'd no, but a Mischance might happen to him, as well as to another Man. Yet this, with several other Passages of alike Nature, are call'd Omens of his Murder at *Portsmouth*. But it is plain that the Duke was a wiser Man than to have any such Notions. He was going on a dangerous Expedition, and therefore took such Precautions as became a wise and brave Man. This Expedition gave an Opportunity for a halfbrain'd Assassin to dispatch him; but sure it can never justify such strain'd and unna-

tural Constructions of Speeches capable of a much better Meaning. In like manner the Murder of *Henry IV. of France*, is said to have been presaged by Reports of his Death 12 or 14 Days preceding it at *Prague*, *Brussels*, and other Places, which Facts are well made out: But then their Cause is as well known, which was the boasting Temper of the Jesuits, who were in the Secret of his Murder.

THE last Cause I shall mention of popular Credulity, is the Conduct of great Men who have made such Notions subservient to their Purposes. When *Paulus Emilius* was about to march agaist *Aperus*, King of *Macdon*, his Wife met him weeping, who, on his asking the Cause, answered, *My favourite little Dog Persens is dead - I accept the Omen*, reply'd the Consul: Which Story, when it reach'd the Army, mightily raised the Courage of the Soldiers. This Passage is recorded by *Plutarch*; and *Zonaras* tells us a like Story of *Augustus*, How that the Day before the Battle of *Actium*, meeting early in the Morning a Man driving an *Ale*, he ask'd him his Name; the Man answer'd, *Entichus*: He then ask'd him his *Ale's Name*; the Man told him, *Nick*. Now, because the former signifies good Luck, and the latter Victory, it was concluded that he would become sole Lord of the *Roman Empire*. I will conclude this Paper with a very remarkable Story of the famous Cardinal *de Fleury*, who, in a Conversation on this Subject, was pleased to say, in a mix'd Company, that though he was no Patron of such kind of Things, yet he had been once foretold many strange Events; all of which, except one, which he would not reveal, had come exactly to pass. This being related to the Queen, she, out of the Curiosity which is common to the Sex, pressed his Eminence so hard, that he parted, or seemed to part with the *Saints* in those Words, *I have been told, Madam, that I shall die at the Age of a hundred and thirty, in full Possession of my Master's Favour, as well as of the Post I sit present to enjoy. What a Mortification must this have been to the Malcontents (if there are any such) in that Kingdom!*

R. FREEMAN.

I. R. E. L. A. N. D.

Dublin, March 27. Last Week came an Account from Bath of the Death of Robert Oliver, Esq; Member of Parliament for the Borough of Kilmallock.

We hear that the Drawer, who was concerned in the Murder of Lieutenant Hume at *Roleysea*, was found guilty of the said Murder at the last Assizes held at *Clonmell*.

To-morrow his Majesty's Yacht sails for Parkgate, with the Right Honourable the Lord and Lady Molesworth, the Right Hon. the Lord Donegall, and several other Persons of Distinction.

By Passengers who arriv'd from Bristol the Middle of last Week, we are assured, that they saw last Tuesday in that Channel a great Water-sput hanging in the Air; a thing never known before in the British or Irish Seas.

Last Saturday were committed to Newgate, one *Taaffe*, and one *Gorman*, two of the Persons concerned in the Murder of one Kelly in *Dirty-Lane* in *Thomas-street* last Christmas.

The same Day Mrs. *Coutry*, a famous Woman, who some time ago kept a House in *Bolton-street*, was committed for scaling Mr. *Flem-Maurice* the Attorney's Plate.

The same Day was committed Sarah *Ryan*, a common Receiver, and Mrs. *Kinsellagh*, one of the same Business, for receiving and buying the Plate of *Hyacinth Cheevers*, Esq; the Value of 500. for one Guinea.

One *Kendrick*, a Robber, is also committed. The Gaol of Newgate has not been so full of Thieves and Receivers these many Years as it is now.

HOME FOR 78.

Leith, March 24. Arrived the *Butterfly*, William Boucher, from Amsterdam. Sailed the *George*, William Dallas, for *Gortenburg*.

Leith, March 26. Arrived the *Providence*, Colin Campbell, from *Seville*, with *Friggs* and *Wine*.

Brigal.

Bristol, March 31. This Morning arrived the Marloorough; Blanck; the Bristol, Rowles; and the Berkley, Stockdale, from Jamaica, the last in 8 Weeks.

Falmouth, March 26. This Day arrived the King George Packer, Pellew, from Lisbon; and the Bonetta Man of War, Capt. Young, from cruising. Wind N.

Weymouth, March 31. On the 29th, sailed the Thomas, Hickman; and the Speedwell, White, both for London from Guernsey: Yesterday the Norton, Watt, of and from this Place for Riga. Came to an Anchor, the St. Peter, Bergefon, of and from Fredrickshall for a Market. This Day arrived the Speedwell, Reynolds, from Guernsey for this Place; and the Success, Pearce, of this Place from Guernsey for London. Wind S. W. and fine Weather.

Poole, March 31. Since my last came in the Phenix, Mathews, of Liverpool for Bristol; the Henry and John, Kindness, of and for Dover from Rouen; the Providence, Winsor, from London; and the Jane, Sheppard, from Bristol. Came into Studland Bay, the Providence, Neskill, from Arundel in Norway. Sailed the Elizabeth, Mills, for London; and the Three Brothers, Phippard, for Newcastle. Wind North West.

Cowes, March 31. On the 28th, sailed the Neptune, Stroud, from Carolina for Bremen; and the Ann, Parker, from Liverpool for Amsterdam: On the 29th, came in the Union, White, of and for Caermarthen from Rouen. Sailed the Mary, St. Luc, of and from Cowes for Havre: On the 30th, came in the Angel Raphael, Winter, of and from Arundel for this Place. Sailed the Tonge Struya, Peterson; and the Juffrouw, Jacoba Quack, of and from the Texel, a Cruising. Wind West.

Deal, April 1. Wind S. W. Came down and sailed through, the Milner, Chambers, for Maryland; and the Cordelia and Elizabeth, Masters, for Bristol. Remain in the Downs his Majesty's Ships the Kennington, the Flye, and the Otter, with the Constant, Phillips, for Jamaica; the Sarah and Elizabeth, Sackett, for Antigua; the James and Elizabeth, Norcomb, for St. Sebastian's. Arrived the Deborah and Martha, Durant, from Oporto.

Gravesend, April 2. Passed by the St. Peter, Jacob Wahso, from Hamburg, who in his Passage met with bad Weather, and receiving great Damage, put into the Texel to refit.

Arrived at several Ports.

The Milk River, Brooks; the Lovely Betty, Spence; and the Apollo, Brown, from London and Madeira; the Snapper, Gray, from London and Cork, all at Jamaica.

The Ashstead, Lowder, from London, was met going into Jamaica.

The Dispatch, Ladd, from Dublin at Madeira.

The Montrois, Donaldson, from Norway at Newcastle.

At Jamaica, the Clarendon, Way, from London.

At Marseilles, the Creighton, Anderson, from London.

At Bristol, the Ann, Wigg, from Zant.

The Marlborough, Blanck, who is arrived at Bristol from Jamaica, was chased by a French Guarda Costa, who had plunder'd a Ship bound to Liverpool, and might have served them as bad, if one of our Men of War had not been in Company with her.

The Torrington Man of War was gone in Chace after the said Guarda Costa.

We hear a Fleet of Merchant Ships were to Sail in March from Jamaica for England, under Convoy of a 50 Gun Ship.

L O N D O N .

On the 26th of last Month died of a Palsey, at his Seat in Stirling shire, James Drummond of Blair-Drummond, Esq; aged 67; and is succeeded in an opulent Estate by his eldest Son George.

On Thursday last the Assizes ended at Exon for the County of Devon, when the five following Malefactors receiv'd Sentence of Death, viz. Philip Davy, for Horse-stealing; Henry Bunker, for robbing a Shop at Totnes; William Maddock, for Horse-stealing; Joseph Barrow, for robbing a Woman of two Gold Rings, at No Place near Plymouth; and Ann Radcliff, for breaking open and plundering a Chest of Drawers of her Master's; of whom the four latter have since obtain'd a Reprieve.

We hear that at the Assizes at Lincoln, one Sharpe, a Horse-stealer, receiv'd Sentence of Death, and on Friday the 23d of last Month was hang'd there. He stole several Horses near this City, and

in the County of Norfolk, and sold them in Lincolnshire; he also stole Horses in Lincolnshire, and sold them in this County, as himself confess'd; whereby several People have got their own again.

Last Thursday the Assizes ended at Tintord before the Lord Chief Justice Willes, when Robert Mantle, John Budwell, and John Hawker, receiv'd Sentence of Death. John Withers, John Read, John Pixley, and Joseph Wilson, are order'd for Transportation for seven Years; the two last for aiding and assisting in the clandestine Running of uncustom'd Goods. Samuel Smith, Broxholm Cating, Thomas Forster, John Read, otherwise Chimney-Sweeper, and Thomas Fletcher, are ordered to remain in Prison. Henry Clarke and Luke Harrison, having found Sureties for their good Behaviour, are ordered to be discharged. Richard Bibby, James Dent, Mary Alden, Charles Coppen, John Harby, Joseph Field, John Hart, and John Cage, acquitted severally by Verdict, are order'd to be discharged. Roger Roberts, William Withers, Thomas Pitts, Robert Rich, and Samuel Simpson, discharged by Proclamation.

Last Friday se'night was executed at Worcester, Godfrey Wheeler, who confess'd the Crime for which he suffer'd, and that it had been his Practice for many Years. He seem'd very penitent, walk'd to the Gallows in his Shroud, and declared to several, that John Morgan (who is reprieved) was only guilty of robbing Mr. Stone.

At Hereford Assizes, which ended last Thursday, William Francis, for stealing Stockings at Lembster Fair, and Thomas Williams, for Theft, were burnt in the Hand. John Jones, for stealing a Gun, and William Powell, for stealing a Yoke of Oxen, were sentenc'd to be Transported; and Four were Acquitted.

Mr. Nathaniel Stephens is appointed Deputy Comptroller of the Customs in the Port of Bristol, in the room of John Elbridge, Esq; deceased.

Yesterday a Dispensation passed the Great Seal, to enable the Rev. Mr. William Elliot, M. A. to hold the Rectory of Dansfield, in the County of Surry and Diocese of Winchester.

As did also a Dispensation to enable the Rev. Mr. James Pascham, M. A. Chaplain to the Earl of Ferrers, to hold the Rectory of Ishamessellor, in the County of Northampton and Diocese of Peterborough; together with the Vicarage of Dalington, in the County and Diocese aforesaid.

And likewise a Dispensation to enable the Rev. Mr. John Salter, M. A. Chaplain to the Earl of Kerr, to hold the Rectory Stocke-Fleming, in the County of Devon and Diocese of Exeter; together with the Rectory of Diftord, in the same County and Diocese.

On Friday last the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury issued out an Order to his Majesty's Board of Works, forthwith to measure the Ground, and bring in an Estimate of the Charge of building the two new Houses of Parliament; which we hear will be in Cotton Garden.

We hear there are two Plans drawn in order to be presented to the Board of Works, viz. the one by Mr. Fleetcroft, the other by Mr. Newton, which are to be laid before them for their Approbation.

Yesterday Richard Arundel, Esq; took the Oaths to qualify himself as Master of the Mint, in the room of John Conduit, Esq; deceased.

As likewise Dr. Tenison, to qualify himself as one of the Prebendaries of Canterbury.

As likewise the Rev. Dr. Hayter, to qualify himself as one of the Prebendaries of Westminster Abby, in the room of Dr. Bundy, deceased.

We bear that there is daily a great Report of the Nobility and Gentry at Mrs. Simmon's, at the Great House in Grosvenor-Square, to purchase Tickets, the House being absolutely to be Raffled for so soon as the 18th Day of the next Month.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge.	5 05 50	6 14

Bank Stock	144 1-4th to 3-8ths.	India 169.
South Sea	100 3-4ths.	Old Annuity 113.
ditto	110 3-4ths.	New 7-8ths.
	1-8th to 1-4th.	Three per Cent. 105.
	Seven per Cent.	Loan 110 1-4th.
	Five per Cent.	Royal Assurance 92 1-4th.
		102.
		London Assurance 12 1-half.
		African 13 1-half.
		India Bond 61 11s. to 12s.
		Premium 12s. to 13s.
		South Sea ditto 21 8s. Premium.
		Bank Circulation 12s. 6d. Premium.
		Salt Tallies 1-half to 2 Premium.
		English Copper 3l. 5s. Welsh ditto 15s.
		Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Order 5 3-4ths per Cent. Premium.
		Three per Cent. ditto 100 per Cent. Premium.
		Million Bank 12s.

This Day is Published,

(Beautifully printed on a fine Paper, adorn'd with Copper Plates, Price Bound 5s.) Translated from the French of M. de MAUPERTUIS.

THE Figure of the Earth, determined from Observations made by Order of the French King, at the Polar Circle, by Mess. de Maupertuis, Clairaut, Camus, le Monnier, Members of the Royal Academy of Sciences, the Abbe Outhier, Correspondent of the Academy, and M. Celsius, Professor of Astronomy at Upsal.

This Book contains, besides the Observations for the determining the Figure of the Earth, an Account of the several Journies of the Academicians, what they suffered from the Severity of the Climate; many curious Particulars relating to the Natural History of Lapland, and their Observations on the Refractions, and the Force of Gravitation. The Whole is deliver'd in such a manner, as (excepting a few Elements of Geography and Astronomy).

But what is peculiar to this Work, and renders it of general and perpetual Use, is, the Manner of Observing, with such Instruments, and such Precautions, as had never been used but on this Occasion: and which must be a standing Pattern for whoever has to do with Astronomical Operations, or any other, where great Accuracy is required.

Printed for T. Cox, at the Royal-Exchange; C. Davis, in Pater-noster Row; J. and P. Knapton, in Ludgate-street, and A. Millar, over-against St. Clement's Church in the Strand.

This Day is Published,

I. A Discourse of the visible and invisible Church of Christ, in which it is shewn, that the Powers claimed by the Officers of the visible Church, are not inconsistent with the Supremacy of Christ as Head, or with the Rights and Liberties of Christians, as Members of the invisible Church. By JOHN ROGERS, D. D. Vicar of St. Giles's Cripplegate, Canon of Wells, and Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majesty. The 5th Edition, corrected.

II. A Review of a Discourse of the visible and invisible Church of Christ, being a Reply to Mr. Sykes's Answer to that Discourse. By JOHN ROGERS, D. D. The 3d Edition.

III. A Critical Examination of the Holy Gospels according to St. Matthew and St. Luke, with Regard to the History of the Birth and Infancy of our Lord Jesus Christ. By the Author of the Vindication of the History of the Septuaginta.

Magna est veritas, et prevalbit.

IV. A Vindication of the History of the Septuaginta from the Misrepresentations of the Learned Sealigner, Dupin, Dr. Hody, Dr. Prideaux, and other modern Criticks.

V. A Sermon preached at the Annual Visitation of the Lord Bishop of WINCHESTER at Andover, in the County of Southampton, Sept. 14, 1737. By Ferdinand Warner, Vicar of Whitechurch in Hampshire. Published at the Request of several of the Clergy.

VI. A Sermon preached at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, on Sunday Feb 17, 1733-4, to recommend the Charity for establishing the new Colony of Georgia. By T. Rundall, L. L. D. Prebendary of Durham. Published at the Request of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Viscount Tyreton, the Hon. Colonel Whitworth, Church Wardens, and several of the Parishes.

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